



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
Great Government Through the General Management System – Quality, Timeliness, Value
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

CLASS SPECIFICATION

CLASSIFIED

PSYCHIATRIST I
PSYCHIATRIST II
PSYCHIATRIST III

Class No. 004198
Class No. 004196
Class No. 004199

■ CLASSIFICATION PURPOSE

To perform professional psychiatric work involving the examination, diagnosis, and treatment of clients receiving county mental health services; and to perform related work as required.

■ DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

All positions of this class series are found in the Health and Human Services Agency. Incumbents may be assigned to geriatric/long-term rehabilitation skilled nursing facilities, mental health facilities, or public health clinics.

Psychiatrist I:

Under general supervision, incumbents exercise independent medical judgment in the diagnosis and treatment of adults, children and adolescents at a county mental health facility, clinic, or emergency room.

Psychiatrist II:

Under general direction, incumbents act as a lead-worker providing technical guidance and leadership to subordinate Psychiatrist I's and staff, and act in the absence of the Supervising Psychiatrist. It differs from the next higher-level class Psychiatrist III in that the latter is responsible for providing diagnosis and treatment in child, adolescent psychiatry or forensic psychiatry.

Psychiatrist III:

Under general direction, incumbents exercise independent medical judgment in the diagnosis and treatment of children and adolescents or provide forensic services to the courts. It differs from the next higher class, Supervising Psychiatrist in that the latter is responsible for full administrative and supervisory responsibilities for the psychiatric and other medical services of a particular service, ward, or unit.

■ FUNCTIONS

The examples of essential functions listed in the class specification are representative but not necessarily exhaustive or descriptive of any one position in the classes. Management is not precluded from assigning other related functions not listed herein if such duties are a logical assignment for the position.

Essential functions:

1. Conducts comprehensive psychiatric evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment for patients under direct care/supervision and patients with mental and emotional disorders.
2. Obtains and reviews data pertaining to case diagnosis and evaluation.
3. Orders and administers treatment as appropriate.
4. Conducts group and individual psychotherapy sessions.
5. Prepares written reports and records of services rendered.
6. Counsels families and relatives regarding patients' problems and courses of treatment.
7. Delivers talks and confers with community groups and agencies on mental health problems.
8. Participates in the training of resident psychiatrists, practicum students and ancillary staff.
9. Participates in medical staff committee work as assigned.

10. Provides courteous, high quality service to members of the public by personally responding to requests for service or making appropriate referral.

Psychiatrist II (in addition to the above):

1. Assumes medical responsibilities for psychiatric evaluations, diagnoses and treatments of the most difficult psychiatric cases.
2. Acts as a lead-worker providing technical guidance and training to subordinates.
3. May supervise psychiatrists in the absence of a Supervising Psychiatrist.

Psychiatrist III (in addition to the above):

Psychiatrists may be assigned to any of the following units:

Child and Adolescent:

1. Assumes medical responsibility for the psychiatric evaluations, diagnoses, and treatments of children and adolescents in county mental health facilities.
2. Conducts medical assessments of school children exhibiting behavioral problems.
3. Evaluates and treats delinquent youths at county youth detention facilities.

Forensic:

1. Evaluates mental and psychosocial status of individuals when requested by the courts.
2. Testifies in court regarding individuals' competency to stand trial.
3. Conducts treatment of both new and on-going patients.

■ KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Knowledge of:

- Mental illnesses and psychiatric/emotional disorders, emphasizing the diagnostic and treatment methodologies.
- General medicine and its relationship to mental illness.
- Preventive medicine.
- Psychopharmacology.
- Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.
- California Mental Health Services Act.
- Title 22 Acute Psychiatric Hospital Regulations.
- Community organizations, with particular regard to medical and mental health services, programs and facilities.
- Psychosocial Rehabilitation.
- Principles and practices of psychiatric administration.
- Telephone, office, and online etiquette.
- County customer service objectives and strategies.

Skills and Abilities to:

- Diagnose and treat a wide range of mental health disorders, with varying levels of severity and provide psychiatric consultations.
- Work effectively in a multi-disciplinary team setting.
- Maintain beneficial relations with clients and families.
- Work effectively with community agencies in community settings to promote client recovery and rehabilitation from mental illness.
- Communicate effectively orally and in writing.
- Communicate effectively with a variety of individuals representing diverse cultures and backgrounds and function calmly in situations, which require a high degree of sensitivity, tact and diplomacy.

Psychiatrist II and III only (in addition to the above):

- Provide technical guidance and training to subordinate psychiatrists and other staff.
- Supervise subordinates in the absence of the Supervising Psychiatrist.

■ EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE

Education, training, and/or experience that demonstrate possession of the knowledge, skills and abilities listed above. Examples of qualifying education/experience are:

Psychiatrist I:

Graduation from a U.S. accredited medical or osteopathic school or foreign studies certification equivalent to a degree in M.D. or D.O. and completion of a three (3) year psychiatric residency in an approved residency program.

Psychiatrist II:

Graduation from a U.S. accredited medical or osteopathic school or foreign studies certification equivalent to a degree in M.D. or D.O. and completion of a three (3) year psychiatric residency in an approved residency program, AND, at least two (2) years of professional psychiatric experience.

Psychiatrist III:

Graduation from a U.S. accredited medical or osteopathic school or foreign studies certification equivalent to a degree in M.D. or D.O. and completion of a three (3) year psychiatric residency in an approved residency program, AND, completion of a two (2) year fellowship in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, or Forensic Psychiatry, OR, four (4) years of full-time experience working in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry or Forensic Psychiatry.

■ ESSENTIAL PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The physical characteristics described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of the classification(s). Reasonable accommodation may be made to enable an individual with qualified disabilities to perform the essential functions of a job, on a case-by-case basis.

Frequent sitting, walking, standing. Occasional neck and waist bending and twisting, squatting, kneeling, repetitive use of hands, simple and power hand grasping, fine hand manipulation, hand pushing and pulling, reaching above and below shoulder level. Must be able to lift up to 10 lbs., and occasionally 100 lbs.

■ SPECIAL LICENSES, CERTIFICATES, OR REQUIREMENTS

Licenses

Valid license to practice medicine in the State of California.

Must be either eligible for, or certified as a diplomate of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, in psychiatry.

Valid California Class C driver's license is required at time of appointment or the ability to arrange transportation for field travel. Employees in this class may be required to use their own personal vehicle.

Certification/Registration

Valid Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) certificate.

A valid National Provider Identification Number (NPI) is required at the time of employment, or proof of application must be provided within sixty (60) days of beginning employment. Incumbents are required to maintain the NPI throughout employment in this class.

Working Condition

Exposure to excessive noise.

Working with biohazards such as: blood pathogens, sewage, hospital waste, etc.

Background Investigation

Must have a reputation for honesty and trustworthiness. Misdemeanor and/or felony convictions may be disqualifying depending on type, number, severity, and recency. Prior to appointment, candidates will be subject to a background investigation.

Probationary Period

Incumbents appointed to permanent positions in the Psychiatrist I classification shall serve a probationary period of six (6) months and Psychiatrist II and III classifications shall serve a probationary period of twelve (12) months (Civil Service Rule 4.2.5).

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